

TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
Board of Fire Commissioners
Fire District No. 2
Minutes of the Agenda and Regular Meetings
Wednesday, July 13, 2011

The Monroe Township Board of Fire Commissioners of District No. 2 met at the Monroe Township Fire District #2 & EMS building, 10 Halsey Reed Road, Monroe Township, New Jersey for an Agenda and Regular Meeting.

Chairman Mahler called the meeting to order with a Salute to the Flag at 7:05 pm. Chairman Mahler asked for a moment of silence for all firefighters and military who have died in the performance of their duties.

UPON ROLL CALL made by Commissioner Martin Berkowitz, the following members of the Monroe Township Board of Fire Commissioners of District No. 2 were present: Martin Berkowitz, Glenn Borsuk, Maurice Mahler, Edward Mitnowsky and Lawrence Reisch.

ALSO PRESENT: Board Attorney Richard J. Shaklee, Esquire, and Val Cier, Recording Secretary.

There was one career firefighter present: Chief Carbin.

There were no volunteer firefighters present.

There were no members of the public present.

Chairman Mahler announced that the meeting was being held in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act, having been published in the April 1, 2011 newspaper, posted on the bulletin board of the Office of the Township Clerk, and notices sent to those requesting such.

AGENDA MEETING

Chairman Mahler asked if there were any corrections to last month's minutes.

Commissioner Borsuk had grammatical corrections to various pages of the minutes.

Chairman Mahler reported on behalf of building committee. Chairman Mahler stated there is an outstanding bill of \$23,000 to Santorini. Every change order must be approved by Spiezele, but there is an extended warranty, and leaks have stopped. Chief Carbin stated the doors would not come down, which is an emergency repair. They came the next day to repair it. Chairman Mahler asked if the board should cover it with a letter to Ari for the extended warranty, stating that the warranty should apply to all sub-contractors for the entire building. Attorney Shaklee will address the letter.

Chief Carbin called Jason Martin about solar kiosk not working. Chairman Mahler would like Chief Carbin to post consolidation and committee meetings on website. Chief Carbin would also like to post approved minutes on website.

7:14-Brian Valentino of Patriot Consulting arrived.

Commissioner Reisch asked if the board ever got paid on insurance payments the township owes the district. Chief Carbin said he hasn't heard from the township. Chief Carbin will

reach out to Wayne Hamilton Friday morning (stop in for status of payment of insurance). Commissioner Reisch would like a status of the conversation with Mr. Hamilton.

Chairman Mahler stated the other firehouse was hit by lightening, which caused much damage to the building. Should the board consider putting some protection on the new building, looking at doing protection to the invertors, but not the entire building due to cost? One company, Lightening Prevention Systems, won't do protection on partial building.

Chief Carbin suggested doing entire building because everthing is new. Chairman Mahler stated \$18,645 is one bid price for entire building, \$11,300 (labor and materials) is another price. Chief Carbin stated they need to have a third bid - Baker is another company to be considered. Computers and certain outlets have surge protectors built in. There are outlets that don't have protection, such as radio chargers.

Commissioner Reisch asked if the township will contribute to cost of lightning rods. Chairman Mahler and Chief Carbin stated the township would probably not contribute. Commissioner Reisch felt the township should be approached and they should contribute since they share the building. Commissioner Borsuk stated it's a fight not worth fighting for \$3,000. Need to consider where you draw the line, such as 1/3 of the cost of gas for mowing lawn, etc. Commissioner Berkowitz doesn't feel the township will contribute and Commissioner Mitnowsky feels they should pay for something. Commissioner Berkowitz stated it's an emergency organization and the township will expect the board to absorb it. If there is an issue with a large cost, it may be worth the fight.

Chairman Mahler asked the board to review the Claims against the Board. Chairman Mahler asked how many more physicals are needed. Chief Carbin stated there are two subs and a few volunteers. No more than 10 physicals, and that's on the high side.

Commissioner Berkowitz has correspondence for regular meeting.

Chairman Mahler sent an email to SREC organization, not sure if anything was sold last month.

Commissioner Reisch asked how the new truck is coming along. Chief Carbin stated they go out Tuesday for final inspection, and return Thursday night. Expect delivery the 2nd week of August and put in service in September.

7:26pm Dennis Cronin arrived.

Chairman Mahler mentioned they are looking at getting a plaque with the fireman's prayer on a boulder for memorial garden. Plaques average cost is \$5,058 plus shipping. Chief Carbin stated they will need to get 3 quotes.

UPON MOTION MADE by Glenn Borsuk and seconded by Martin Berkowitz, the agenda meeting was adjourned at 7:28pm.

ROLL CALL: Aye Berkowitz
Aye Borsuk
Aye Mahler
Aye Mitnowsky
Aye Reisch

REGULAR MEETING

Chairman Mahler called the regular meeting to order with a Salute to the Flag at 7:30 pm.

Chairman Mahler asked for a moment of silence for all firefighters and military who have died in the performance of their duties.

UPON ROLL CALL made by Commissioner Martin Berkowitz, the following members of the Monroe Township Board of Fire Commissioners of District No. 2 were present: Martin Berkowitz, Glenn Borsuk, Maurice Mahler, Edward Mitnowsky and Lawrence Reisch.

ALSO PRESENT: Board Attorney Richard J. Shaklee, Esquire, and Val Cier, Recording Secretary.

There was one career firefighter present: Lt. Riley.

There was one volunteer firefighter present: Dennis Cronin.

There were three members of the public present: Brian Valentino of Patriot Consulting, Charlie DiPierro and Jonathan DiPierro.

Chairman Mahler announced that the meeting was being held in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act, having been published in the April 1, 2011 newspaper, posted on the bulletin board of the Office of the Township Clerk, and notices sent to those requesting such.

MINUTES

Chairman Mahler asked for a motion on the Minutes.

UPON MOTION MADE by Glenn Borsuk and seconded by Martin Berkowitz, a motion was adopted to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2011 agenda and regular meetings, as amended.

ROLL CALL: Aye Berkowitz

Aye Borsuk

Aye Mahler

Aye Mitnowsky

Aye Reisch

CLAIMS AGAINST THE BOARD

Chairman Mahler asked the board to review the claims against the board.

Commissioner Reisch read the report:

General Operating Claims Total \$333,260.58

Capital Project Claims Total \$2,920.00

Net Payroll Claims Total \$ 67,087.28

Total Claims Against the Board \$403,267.86

June 11, 2011 - July 13, 2011

UPON MOTION MADE by Lawrence Reisch and seconded by Ed Mitnowsky, claims against the Monroe Township Board of Fire Commissioners of District No. 2 were approved in the amount of \$403,267.86.

ROLL CALL: Aye Berkowitz
Aye Borsuk
Aye Mahler
Aye Mitnowsky
Aye Reisch

TREASURER'S REPORT

Chairman Mahler asked for the treasurer's report.

Commissioner Reisch reported the following as of July 13, 2011

Hudson City Savings Bank:

Unrestricted Funds	\$584,723.45
Restricted Funds	\$375,989.83
Capital Projects	\$66,174.09
Cash on Hand	\$170.00

Restricted due

<i>From Capital</i>	<i>\$3,654.04 (offset by same amount)</i>
Total Balance	\$1,027,057.37

Commissioner Reisch questioned the last check of \$65,000 and if it was for capital projects. Chief Carbin stated it was capital projects because it was money expended on the building and reimbursed.

BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman Mahler reported that the leaks are all fixed. Would like the board to move toward getting a 3rd bid of lightening protection.

UPON MOTION MADE by Glenn Borsuk and seconded by Martin Berkowitz, to investigate the feasibility of lightning protection for the building by obtaining a third quote.

ROLL CALL: Aye Berkowitz
Aye Borsuk
Aye Mahler
Aye Mitnowsky
Aye Reisch

Commissioner Reisch questioned the deductible under insurance. Chief Carbin stated there is a \$1000 deductible. It was \$7,650 of damage at other building. Commissioner Reisch stated if the boards out of pocket cost is \$1,000; the board needs to consider that when looking at the cost of installing protection.

CORRESPONDENCE

Chairman Mahler asked for the correspondence to be read.

Commissioner Berkowitz read a letter from the NJ forest fire service to house a B44 fire truck, 21 feet, and John Deere dozer it pulls, in one of the firehouses. A local fire house stores it now for the winter, but needs a location for year round. The firefighters can move the truck when needed and be part of their crew. John Reith is the Section Forest Firewarden.

Chief Carbin stated they would like indoor storage, but if it's not feasible, they will take any type of storage. There are many responders of the forest fire service, using the apparatus, that live in this area. It would fit inside the firehouse or outside. In winter, at least the truck could be stored inside and dozer outside.

If there are certified firefighters, their equipment can be used by our firefighters, if needed. Some of the firefighters here are certified. There is no issue with insurance. If anything happened on our property, they would submit to their insurance.

Dennis Cronin asked where is it located now. Chief Carbin stated it's in Brookview. Chairman Mahler doesn't mind if it's not an eyesore. It could be at either location. Commissioner Berkowitz feels the board should house it for their needs. Commissioner Borsuk feels the board should give a tentative approval until the details are determined (where it will be housed, etc).

Attorney Shaklee state there should be a signed agreement and release hold harmless document.

UPON MOTION MADE by Glenn Borsuk and seconded by Martin Berkowitz, to tentatively house B44, as requested, final approval will be contingent upon the specific arrangements on where and how it will be stored in addition to any legal requirements, put forth by our counsel.

ROLL CALL: Aye Berkowitz
Aye Borsuk
Aye Mahler
Aye Mitnowsky
Abstain Reisch

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU REPORT

Chairman Mahler asked for the Fire Prevention Report.

Chief Carbin reviewed the following:

- Monthly run analysis down from last month, but a lot of activity on a few nights

Chairman Mahler stated there are many issues of garage storage and fire concerns. Can anything be done? Chief Carbin stated they have no rights in the communities because it's private property. Mr. Cronin stated they have to refer them to community association.

- Event totals - Dennis Cronin leading

Chairman Mahler questioned if there are hoses for new truck. Chief Carbin stated the hoses are in.

- Cell phone upgrade complete

- Progress on new apparatus are on the website
- Electrical energy rebate coming in from MX Energy (savings is 9.9%)
- Claim for lightening strike at old firehouse submitted 6/21/11
- Participated in tanker taskforce drill in Plainsboro (along with West Windsor, Greekstown, Plainsboro) Chief Carbin and instructor from Plainsboro trained the class.
- Attended working fire in Hightstown on duty was 3rd apparatus on site
- Attending National night out at Thompson park with trucks 571,572,573 (8/2)

APPLEGARTH VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

President Dennis Cronin reported:

- Volunteers are going to national night out and hope to recruit
- Volunteers already paid for the garage door. Company is returning check back to the board. Chief Carbin stated that the check was returned 4 days ago for about \$240 and sent to board accountant.
- Deputy Chief Mark Davis and Glenn Borsuk picked up the brush truck from station 51, that was donated, and it is in firehouse. The old 576 truck can be taken out of service (swap). Need to transition insurance. District 1 Attorney will be sending paperwork on the truck.
- Three volunteers may be joining, they are going through the fire academy
- Recruiting by word of mouth or community events (veterans flea market or pancake breakfast)
- Chairman Mahler asked about advertising. President Cronin stated they can but they like to recruit in person.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Chairman Mahler opened the meeting to the public.

Mr. DiPierro stated he was at Fire District 3 meeting, and the Past Chief/Commissioner Rob Lebrun mentioned since they lost 70% of volunteer manpower, the volunteer organization no longer exists. He wants to start James-Monroe volunteer fire company. Two of district three commissioners said they would support them getting volunteers. Mr. Lebrun has money because they sold all their volunteer equipment - the question is, where the money should go.

Mr. DiPierro also suggested to the attorney in district 3 to come to district 1 and 2's meeting to see how they interact with public.

Chairman Mahler stated he questioned Doug Martin if he has proof of the disbanding of volunteers of district 3 fire department. Attorney Shaklee stated the Chief sent a letter from year 2000 stating the volunteers were being disbanded due to 70% loss. Chairman Mahler stated there is a checking account open, so does that constitute an entity exists, although they don't know whose name is on the signature cards.

Commissioner Reisch asked if this is for volunteers across the towns. how does it affect district 2 volunteers. Mr. DiPierro said he wants to get members from district 3 and Jamesburg. They are going to give some volunteers from district 1 too. In 5 months, \$70,000 was spent in overtime in district 3. District 3 is broke and won't be able make it until April. If they have a Chief and Captain respond to fires, it would reduce paid firefighters needed.

Commissioner Reisch states the proposal to have all volunteers under one umbrella. How would it affect the autonomous body of volunteers in district 2.

Mr. DiPierro stated they are trying to strengthen volunteers across the township. First in district 3, to get volunteers. District 1 has enough manpower to help support this new organization. It would help district 2 by getting more volunteer manpower and try to balance volunteers in township. District 2 operates a 4 man crew, but District 3 operates an 8 man crew. Volunteers make a difference.

Mr. DiPierro mentioned about District 3: Raceway park- they had a 7 man crew; fireworks-5 man crew. If you can operate with less than 8, why do they need 8?

Mr. DiPierro said District 3 rate went to 29.3. Commissioner Reisch stated they added funds to their budget to bring it to 27.4. Mr. DiPierro said the district 3 accountant said last night it was 29.3. \$1900 in fire tax for one house in Monroe.

President Cronin thinks the new volunteer organization would hurt volunteers in district 2 because many of district 2 volunteers live in district 3, and may consider going there or having a joint membership, but there is a large source of volunteers to recruit and it would bridge the gap.

Chairman Mahler asked where Mr. Lebrun got the \$5,000 from. Mr. DiPierro said it was left in the account, and the state sent a letter in 2009 about the funds.

President Cronin mentioned if there is a good compensation package for volunteers to join, it could blossom quickly. Chairman Mahler questioned if they will create an organization. Mr. DiPierro said they would create an organization and two commissioners are supportive. President Cronin stated that Jerry Chaplin has always been lifetime member and very supportive.

President Cronin stated that district 1 is holding a recruiting event/open house, volunteers are paying for it. Mr. DiPierro stated the district 1 commissioners pay the volunteers for service. It's their equipment and their building. They give the volunteers \$130,000 and pay for insurance/LOSAP. They are a 24/7 organization.

CLOSED SESSION

Chairman Mahler announced the need to hold an executive session. Attorney Shaklee read the Resolution for an Executive Session for the purposes of anticipated litigation and attorney/client privilege matters.

UPON MOTION MADE by Maurice Mahler and seconded by Martin Berkowitz, the board went into executive session for the purpose of anticipated litigation and attorney/client privilege matters.

ROLL CALL: Aye Berkowitz
Aye Borsuk
Aye Mahler
Aye Mitnowsky
Aye Reisch

ADJOURN

Chairman Mahler asked for a motion to adjourn.

UPON MOTION MADE by Glenn Borsuk and seconded by Lawrence Reisch, the meeting was adjourned.

ROLL CALL: Aye Berkowitz
Aye Borsuk
Aye Mahler
Aye Mitnowsky
Aye Reisch

MARTIN BERKOWITZ
Board Secretary
MAURICE MAHLER
Chairman

NOTE: Appendixes can be obtained upon request from the Board Secretary.

PREPARED BY: Val Cier